



FASHION INTERNATIONAL

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

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THE VINTAGE ADVANTAGE

The vintage craze has gone mainstream. In the last few years we've seen designers referencing every decade from the '40s to the '80s, but now it's not only the fashion pack that's caught the fever, it's the savvy consumer who wants an individual "look" at an affordable price. Projecting ahead we expect this phenomenon to continue. From the vintage apparel trade shows and couture auctions, to the neighborhood thrift shop that has started showcasing retro clothes and accessories, the



vintage craze seems here to stay. F.I. decided to investigate, and what better place to start than The Metropolitan Vintage Fashion Show & Sale at the Metropolitan Pavilion.

Now in its ninth year, this is the crème de la crème of vintage shows. Held over a period of three days, it fea-

tures a vast array of clothing and accessories from dealers based throughout the U.S. and London. This was our first visit so we didn't know what to expect beside the crowds – after all this show is open to the public. After a quick look at the stalls, it was apparent that the

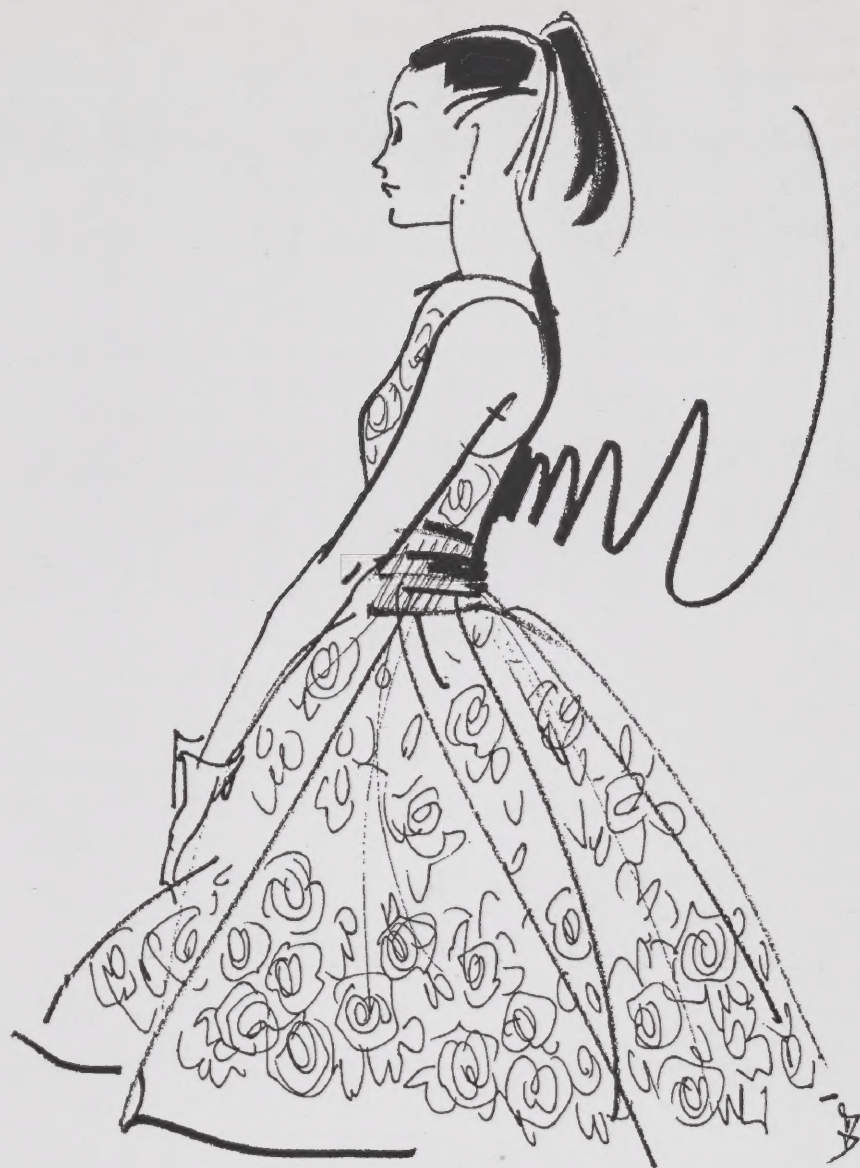
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term antique hardly applied as most dealers carried clothes and accessories from the '60s, '70s, and '80s with a smattering of earlier pieces from the '50s, art deco and Edwardian eras. Our investigations turned up some interesting data on the current popular collectibles: Gucci and Roberta di Camerino handbags, Trifari and Miriam Haskell jewelry, and anything by Pucci or Bonnie Cashin. In no particular order is our rundown of the choice dealers.

BEVERLEY BIRKS, a NY based dealer, had a lovely pink '60s Mainbocher coat and some Pucci dresses in good condition, plus a selection of clothes from the late 19th century to the mid '70s. WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND is a busy



2 CEIL CHAPMAN



VINTAGE BY STACEY LEE

dealer with terrific and expensive Roberta di Camerino bags, a nice selection of snakeskin jackets and '80s Azzedine Alaia pieces. JUST SAY WHEN had a fabulous, but hardly vintage, Chanel suit and an early Calvin Klein two-piece ensemble from the '60s, as well as gowns from the '30s and '40s. At BABCOCK/RICHARD T. BOND INC., there was a great selection of high-end vintage costume jewelry from KJL to Dior. FOLEY & CORINNA told us that the sexy, funky stuff sells best, but we zeroed in on their terrific selection of bags by Gucci, Dior and Vuitton. Chanel clothes and shoes were in impeccable

condition at BUY GONE DAYS. This dealer, based in Pine Bush, New York, noted that anything from the '60s and '70s was hot. The Courreges dresses in baby pastels were perfection at RESURRECTION – great paired with the '60s classic Gucci and Chanel handbags from The PAPER BAG PRINCESS, a West Hollywood-based dealer. More funky were the '50s party dresses and beaded sweaters at RIGHT TO THE MOON ALICE. Finally, we adored the Bakelite jewelry, alligator shoes and bags at Brooklyn-based dealer PEPPER, and

CONVERSATIONS:

Spring/Summer 2002 Print Trends

Our first stop to gather information for our prints and fabrics Spring 2002 preview report was the EUROPEAN PREVIEW, held downtown, at the Metropolitan Pavilion in NYC. The Preview provides an opportunity to view premiere European textile houses' teaser of what they will be showing in March in Paris, when their collections are ready in their entirety. Next stop, Arno's Restaurant, in the Garment Center, where IMPRINTS was holding their Textile Design and Concept exhibition. And finally, we spoke with ROSEANN FORDE, Fashion Director of Dupont, always a reliable source when it comes to forecasting the upcoming trends.

The European Preview:

In a walk through the trend displays located in the space just before we reached the fabric exhibition, we noted three trend directions: "generosity" (the use of precious elements such as gold threads woven-through); "audacity" (a continuation of retro prints, particularly in shades of purple tones and sunset combinations); "discretion" (a muted tone-on-tone, a reaction to the vivid color that has enjoyed popularity for the past few seasons).

Here, we interviewed Emmanuel Dumont, the New York based representative of TISSUS MALHIA KENT. According to Mr. Dumont, it

is a little too early to predict fabric trends for Spring/Summer 2002. Of the 600 fabrics Malhia Kent usually offers, Dumont had only 20 or so to show us. "The designers and their design teams make their decisions after the PV opens in March in Paris, after they have seen the full swathe of what is available." In spite of the limited fabrics Dumont had at his disposal, we noticed that the "generosity" trend was well represented.

Mahlia Kent works with home designers such as Peter Marino as well as with fashion designers. There were some stunningly colorful fabrics, like the swatch of mauve pink acrylic and polyamide with gold Lurex fashioned into an offbeat geometric pattern. In the couture line, there were some patchwork prints and a wonderful denim sample that had gold ribbon running through it as well as silver glitter, similar to the type used on Christmas trees. This sold for \$671 a meter. A couture hand-made fabric can cost as much as \$10,000 a meter, Dumont matter-of-factly informed us. It takes a day for the fabric makers to make two meters. The selection process is very quick by contrast. A designer will often spend ten minutes or so poring over a sample and tweak the pattern to his or her taste, an advantage when working with couture fabrics.

Imprints:

The display in the trend room

summarized this group's forecast of the upcoming print trends for spring 2002. The people at Imprints boiled their trend forecast down to six classifications and to a few subheadings within each classification:

1. Flowering – Outline, Watercolors
2. Morning Sun – Raga, Kimono
3. Flat Out – Silhouette, Flat
4. Formation – Line, Shape
5. Disguise – Water, Optic, Camouflage
6. See-through

Several of the exhibitors gave us their take on the trends taped up in the trend room. Each of them amplified on the season's dominating themes.

Israeli based AVI INY DESIGNS sells to manufacturers ranging from the mainstream to the couture level, in areas as diverse as swimwear, children's, women's, men's and the lingerie market. Avi feels that tropical prints are really important now: bamboo, palm trees, and pineapple, all in brights. More subdued prints such as what he terms "camouflage tropical" in brown, beige and green are also attracting interest. Prints in sophisticated tones of beige and browns do very well with Avi's clientele. Avi suggests pairing tiny prints made to match the big romantic black

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BRIGHT IDEAS

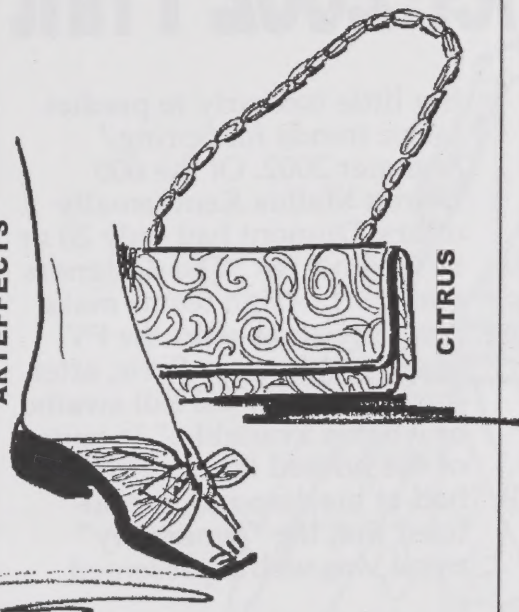
Recap: Spring/ Summer 2001 Accessories

Spring would not be complete without looking at two key accessory trade shows: Accessory Circuit and Accessories The Show (formerly known as the FAE). While the Accessory Circuit is still key in terms of vendor selection and buyer attendance, the latter's initial effort garnered impressive crowds.

Color continues to rule for summer, with candy-coated pastels and creamy icy tones still important. Pinks, orchid, blues, orange and lime were seen everywhere. The most interesting accessory categories were handbags and footwear, with jewelry less inspiring.

The following is a roundup of some of our favorite vendors starting with those that showed at the Circuit.

ARTEFFECTS



MIRIAM SALAT's (at Fragments) pastel enamel bangles in a paisley design, very Indian raj in mood, had matching clip-on earrings to compete the picture. At CITRUS adorable silk dupioni totes in solids and plaid come with sassy trim details, and a chic swirl printed convertible envelope bag sports a chain handle. VERO SANTES sets a casual tone with fresh looking totes and cowboy hats in colorful paja toquilla straw. Each tote features a contrasting embroidered tropical fruit motif. Totes also crop up at CLEVER CARRIAGE (at Cynthia O'Connor). Here they're in pastels with silk hand painted florals and trimmed with printed lizard suede. Also on tap are totes that reverse from floral to gingham—a great two-fer idea. THE SAK/ELLIOTT LUCCA goes beyond their signature "Tightweave" range to more fashionable looks:

woven nylon and straw totes in plaid; natural straw bucket bags with colorful interwoven stripes; and sleek rattan baskets with "Tightweave" draw-string closures. AMY JO GLADSTONE offers some chic summery footwear. Outstanding in a strong collection: her gingham lined slides, the pastel thong sandals and the elegant "Chanel" inspired beige/black multi-strapped kitten heeled slides. CHELSEA TEXTILES' signature botanical embroidered floral slides step out this season with squared-off toes. Here too — gorgeous carpet-bags in hand done needle-point and cute shoulder strapped north/south totes in floral embroidered brown linen and cotton.

While the selection for the most part wasn't up to par at Accessories The Show at the Javits Center, we did find enough that was newsworthy and fresh. Hopefully, by the next go round, the show management will iron-out all the kinks.

ARTEFFECTS FOOTWEAR has some of the cutest summer sandals and slides, most featuring interesting beadwork or embroidery and

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JADED



ACCESSORIES
UNLIMITED



and white prints. Another popular combination is combining tiny prints with broken stripes and geometrics. He also finds that flat retro-styled floral prints are prevalent, particularly for use in dresses and blouses.

DESIGN WORKS INTERNATIONAL deals with apparel manufacturers as well as textiles and home furnishings. Their designs are often on a wallpaper and bedding. Shari Tanaka, Design Director, dwelled on the abundance of floral patterns for spring. "We're seeing very graphic florals that are a lot edgier than before. What we have now, she explained, "is a very flat and graphic floral or trapped and overlapping tonal flower prints." Colorwise, black and white is very strong. Another color trend is the use of two colors combined to make a third. She agreed with Avi's assessment that camouflage is one of the foremost trends for spring. "Camouflage has replaced animal prints, it actually looks like animal until you look at it closely. Nautical is a strong theme, but a subtle nautical, like Deauville and Antibes in the '20s. The spectator print, the black and white rope print, and the broken striped pattern in oxblood red combined with black and white are understated and take the place of the in-your-face up-front nautical print

Nancy Scotting and Holly Simpson, representatives of TANUKI STUDIO, noticed three primary trends: large dum dum flowers, harkening back to the '40s and '50s, on top of a geometric ground,

resulting in an overall highly graphic effect; "nonprint" in muted tones (non-specific prints), popular as a result of the saturation in the market of the bright colors we saw for Spring 2001; and polka dots. Here, where Liz Claiborne is a customer, we also saw a few "status prints" reminiscent of Hermes that work well for items like scarves and for resort collections.

Barbara Groot, of GROOT & CO. DESIGNS, also spoke on a few of the hottest print trends she's observed thus far for spring 2002. Prints she stressed, "are looking very flat". The Japanese Kimono thirties-style print is enormously popular. In general, black and white graphic and floral prints are being well received. Forties-style florals are also hot. This floral, more graphic than the Japanese styled, often appears in bright colors like the pink and green oversized Prada-type flower. Versace style geometrics continue, particularly in brights like fuchsia and lavender, and sunrise/sunset. Lime green, reminiscent of Miami Beach in the 1960's (think Lilly Pulitzer) is an accent color that's all over the board.

Roseann Forde, Dupont Prints

ROSEANN FORDE, agreeing with the reps at Imprints, said that large florals are one of the big stories for spring 2002. She expanded on the theme by adding, "favorites are strategically placed enlarged roses and bright, densely printed posies". She also observed that multidirectional and engineered stripes on "floaty" sheer fabrics are a popular optical pattern. "Placement," she says, "is key, particularly for floral and

geometric motifs". Roseann forecasts that script prints, done in "child-like simplicity," and fun Hawaiian fruits and flowers will round out the picture.

Fabric Direction

Fabrics she terms as "weightless transparencies" are at the top of Roseann's list for spring. "Floaty chiffons" are updated with Lycra and sometimes given a textured effect via slubbed yarns and refined pleats. "Fabrics have become more year-round wearable," says Forde. Leather and suede, which have enjoyed great popularity the past few seasons, are lighter in weight and "year-round wearable" in neutrals and soft colors. They are further improved by being laminated with cotton/Lycra backings, which lend movement and help the garments hold their shape.

Denim keeps going strong, given a refined twist by various treatments: waxing, coating, re-coloring and metallicizing. There are even "faux knitted denims" fashioned to look like wovens, but with the advantage of offering the comfort of knit garments. And lastly, Dupont's "inova" (a non-woven fabric stitched with Lycra) is moving from the industrial into the apparel arena.

Reader's Note:

The European Preview.
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Roseann Forde, Dupont.
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beadwork or embroidery and in wonderfully sunny shades. Bali combines comfort with style. Its multicolored hand-beaded and embroidered upper rests on a molded comfort bottom. Jezebel is also on this wavelength. This black rubber bottom slide features a bow-tied, wavy striped Italian fabric upper. Dressier is the kitten heeled Sabrina slide with embroidered fabric vamp and leather sole. JADED STUDIO is noted for their gorgeous semiprecious jewelry and this season's selection is no exception. There's an outstanding 16" triple-strand necklace that combines aquamarines, green garnets, and amethysts. Another lovely combination pairs rose quartz with peridot for a chunky necklace. MAI has some of the freshest summer totes in "pandan tikog", a unique raffia straw. The color assortment ranges from yellow, pink and red to green, brown and black. On or off the beach Mai proposes brightly colored, rubber soled Mary Jane slippers with contrasting piping and linings—a fun twist on an old favorite. At ACCESSORIES UNLIMITED (at Et Cetera), there are nifty handcrafted handbags and totes. On tap for summer/transition is the St. Thomas range in tropical colors and patterns. The hot pink Bermuda Punch leafy floral tote on a natural ground is especially eye-catching. Another staple of the summer is the classic file tote in natural canvas with vividly colored PVC nylon lining, leather shoulder straps and inside zipper keyhole pocket.

almost succumbed to a stunning patchwork tweed, Persian lamb jacket by Koos Van Den Akker.

Our vintage scouting took us further afield to Sotheby's Collectibles and fashion Departments where we checked out their latest collections up for auction online. Bidders were invited to bid on the personal property of Marilyn Monroe: The Berniece and Mona Miracle Collection, which included clothes, mementos and more, plus shoes and matching handbags from The LaRose Exquisite Footwear Collection.

From the Monroe collection we were especially taken with her spectacular gold sequined gown by Norman Norell circa 1950s and the timeless black jersey cocktail dress by Ceil Chapman, a beige wool sack dress, and the simple black halter chiffon dance dress. In fact, most of Monroe's clothes possessed a timeless elegant quality that vintage collectors are sure to appreciate. The LaRose shoe collection was another matter. From his huge (300,000) inventory Sotheby's displayed only a fraction, but what a selection! There were whimsical wedges, sparkling shoes with Lucite heels, bowed plaid d'Orsay pumps, scooped out ankle-tied flats, tweedy ankle boots, rose colored turtle skin pumps and much, much more for the avid shoe fancier. As Joe LaRose himself put it: "There's no business like shoe business."

INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

MARCH 22-26	DALLAS
WOMEN'S & CHILDREN'S MARKET	
MARCH 22-26	DALLAS
BRIDAL MARKET	
MARCH 23-25	NEW YORK
VISION EXPO (Eyewear)	
MARCH 24-26	DALLAS
MENSWEAR MARKET	
MARCH 28-30	COMO, ITALY
IDEACOMO (Apparel Textiles)	
MARCH 29-APRIL 2	ATLANTA
WOMEN'S & CHILDREN'S MARKET	
MARCH 29-APRIL 2	ATLANTA
BRIDAL MARKET	
MARCH 30-APRIL 1	MADRID
MODALCALZADO & IBERPIEL (Footwear) & (Leathergoods)	
MARCH 30-APRIL 2	NEW YORK
NEW YORK HOME TEXTILE SHOW	
MARCH 30-APRIL 2	LOS ANGELES
DESIGNERS & AGENTS (RTW & Accessories)	

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